

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Following the paragraph beginning "Figure 7 schematically illustrates . . .," insert the following three new paragraphs:

B₂ Figure 8 is a schematic side elevation of a loop fastener of the present invention comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate.

Figure 9 is an enlarged photomicrograph of a nonwoven web in an extended configuration in which more fibers of the web are oriented generally in the direction in which the web is extended.

On page 23, line 21, please amend the paragraph beginning with "In accordance with the present invention" as follows:

B₃ In accordance with the present invention, the loop type fastener (e.g., fastener 84, 85) is preferably made of an oriented material, and more preferably an oriented material comprising a nonwoven web of substantially continuous fibers. ~~In particular embodiments~~ As illustrated in Fig. 8, the oriented material can comprise an oriented, extensible material, and particularly, an oriented, extensible material 90 attached to an elastic substrate 92 so that the composite is extensible and provides retraction tension over a suitable range of extensions. With particular reference to Figure 3, the first fastening components 82 and 83 are desirably although not necessarily disposed on the inner surface 28 of the training pant 20 in the back waist region 24. The first fastening components 82 and 83 are desirably positioned along the distal edges 68 of the back side panels 134, and abutting or adjacent to the waist end edge 72. In certain embodiments, for example,

the first fastening components 82 and 83 can be located within about 2 centimeters, and more particularly within about 1 centimeter, of the distal edges 68, the waist end edges 72, and the leg end edges 70.

On page 27, line 8, please amend the paragraph beginning with "Figure 6 schematically shows" as follows:

By Figure 6 schematically shows how a nonwoven can be drawn between two nips to orient the material. This drawing process also orients the fibers in the machine direction. Specifically, the drawing process of Figure 6 orients the nonwoven in the machine direction. This drawing process also orients the nonwoven fibers to be more aligned in the machine direction than in the cross direction. A nonwoven material, illustrated in Figure 6 as roll A, of a certain width is fed into a nip point or a draw control section, as illustrated in Figure 6 as nip B. The draw control point B is running at a speed of x and controls the speed of the feeding nonwoven web. The nonwoven material is then drawn to a nip point or draw control point C. Draw control point C is running faster than draw control point B, which orients the nonwoven. The ratio of the speed of nip C to the speed of nip B is the draw ratio between the two nips. If the distance between nips B and C is relatively small, the drawing process does not substantially narrow, or neck, the web. If the distance between nips B and C is relatively large, the drawing process can narrow, or neck, the material in the cross direction to a greater extent. By adding nip points subsequent to nip C, the material can be oriented and/or necked further. By controlling the distance between nips B and C and subsequent nips and the draw ratios between the nip points, the

degree of orientation of the web in the machine direction and the degree of necking of the web in the cross direction can be controlled. The nonwoven material thus oriented (e.g., with more fibers oriented generally in the machine direction (i.e., the direction of the draw) as seen in the photomicrograph of Fig. 9) can be wound on a base roll or attached by bonder I to another material H. The bonding can be accomplished by hot melt adhesive, ultrasonic bonds, thermal bonds, or any means well known in the art of bonding. Attachment to a substrate may also be accomplished by direct extrusion of a substrate polymer onto the extended nonwoven, or by means of calendering an extruded substrate directly to the extended nonwoven in a heated and/or patterned nip. The nonwoven can be wound to form a base roll D to later be unwound into another assembly process (such as making a disposable training pant). Alternatively, this process for producing the oriented nonwoven loop material can be an integral step in the assembling process for making a disposable training pant.

On page 38, please replace the ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION with the following replacement ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION.

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Pat 5404
[An ... material]
A In a mechanical fastening system for an article, a first fastening component of the fastening system is constructed of an oriented nonwoven loop material. The nonwoven loop material is constructed at least part of an nonwoven web of fibers that is extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the

b5 direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed
configuration of the web. In one embodiment, the web is in its
extended configuration and secured to a substrate. A second
fastening component of the mechanical fastening system
comprises a hook material wherein the oriented nonwoven loop
material of the first fastening component is adapted for
releasable connection with the hook material of the second
fastening component.
